






Anaheim Coves – Quality of Life Awards Submission

	<p>1. Anaheim Coves is a 14 acre nature park and 1 ½ mile permeable multi-use trail located on the west side of the Santa Ana River between Lincoln Avenue and Ball Road and overlooks the 116 acre Burris Basin groundwater recharge facility. The two staging areas include restrooms, parking lots, bike racks, and drinking fountains (including dog waterers) at each end. There is a horse hitching post and water trough at the Lincoln Staging area. Several observation points allow a view of a manmade bird island which was built by the OCWD for nesting of the federally endangered least terns.</p>
	<p>2. Before the construction of Anaheim Coves, Burris Basin was a weed infested dirt lot surrounded by barbed wire and chain-link fencing where many illegal activities took place including drug use and graffiti. Burris Basin is a water holding and percolation basin owned and operated by the OCWD. Because it became increasingly difficult for the OCWD to maintain and secure this site, they now lease 14 acres to the City of Anaheim for \$1 annually. In exchange, Anaheim took on the responsibility of building the improvements, maintenance and security of the site.</p>
	<p>3. Now, Anaheim Coves is a nature “oasis” in the urban desert. The City of Anaheim received full grant funding for construction. The site design includes many green features including solar lighting, bio swales, and recycled plastic lumber fencing and benches. The landscaping is comprised entirely of all native vegetation. The vegetation chosen is native to the bioregion of the Santa Ana River Watershed. No hybrids or ornamentals have been installed in the park. The native vegetation has greatly increased the native habitat area and enhances the adjacent mitigation area managed by OCWD.</p>
	<p>4. This park was designed for many types of recreation including low speed bike riders. The elderly and young children in the neighborhood love the meandering permeable asphalt bike path that is completely ADA accessible. There is a variety of seating for the elderly, physically challenged, or children who need a rest. The trail is also used for rigorous exercise and is often used by joggers and for long distance training. Commuter bikers also use this important link to the regional Santa Ana River Bike Path that is located on the east side of the river.</p>
	<p>5. Anaheim Coves is a dog friendly place with three drinking fountains equipped with dog waterers. There are dozens of integrated art features. This picture shows the weatherized corten steel images of native birds in a fence panel. There are numerous panels featuring different native birds and plant material throughout the site. Other art pieces include a mosaic image of a migratory bird in the monument sign, mile markers, and artistically designed signage warning about staying on the path to protect the fragility of the habit.</p>

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	<p>6. Since OCWD required a fence, the Landscape Architects designed fencing with art panels and included overlooks along the trail allowing for views of the basin and native birds. The overlooks provide opportunities to rest, read, or just spend time with your best friend. Native trees were located to provide shade when mature at the overlooks and view areas. Over 1000 native trees were planted in small container sizes. This includes oaks from 15 gallon containers while all other trees were installed from 5 gallon containers. The Platanus racemosa has added over 8 feet of growth in the last 2.5 years.</p>
	<p>7. Recycled plastic horse rail fence is used to protect the sensitive habitat and nesting of the state and federally endangered birds. The fencing along the basin side of the trail was specifically chosen and designed to recede visually into the landscape. The fence fabric mesh is vertical which is not as noticeable to the human eye as the diamond shape of the chain link fabric. The black color also lessens fence's impact to the patron's eye as they look through it to the birds and the water in the basin. Anaheim Coves has become a place to be with nature.</p>
	<p>8. There are three welcome signs and seven interpretive signs at the park that celebrate the flora and fauna of the site along with the history of Anaheim, the extensive water recharge efforts by the OCWD, and the importance of water conservation. The interpretive signs take advantage of art opportunities by including representations of flora and fauna in the sign bases as well as the graphics used to display the interpretive information. Anaheim Coves is a place for families to spend time together while learning about the environment.</p>
	<p>9. The site design includes the art of poetry relating it to majestic views and thrilling sightings of Ospreys, Canadian Geese, Coopers Hawks and Great Blue Herons as well as homage to native plant material of the Santa Ana River basin. This poetry is an integral part of the seat walls located in many of the view points and overlooks. Also, the seat walls represent the river exposing sedimentary layers as its waters cuts a path through to the ocean. This is a place for quiet contemplation and a reminder of nature's awesome beauty.</p>
	<p>10. Anaheim Coves is now patrolled by park rangers and police including the mounted patrol and bike team. This is a wonderful opportunity for the police and rangers to interact in a positive way with the residents of Anaheim, including our four legged friends. Horses, together with those from the nearby stable, are welcome and regularly use the site amenities including a horse waterer and tie up at the northern restroom at Lincoln Avenue.</p>